THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) to (c) There have been two requests for opening post offices in Sant Nagar, Delhi-84. The proposals for opening post offices at Baba Colony, B-Block, Sant Nagar, Burari and Batra Gali, Sant Nagar, Burari, were examined during 2002 and 2005 respectively. Both proposals were not found to be justified, as per distance and income norms.

Both the proposals were found to incur a likely annual loss exceeding Rs. 2 lakhs/annum while the income norms for urban areas requires them to be financially self-sufficient at the time of their opening. Similarly, the distance from the proposed post offices to Burari SO was found to be less than 1.5 Km. which is the prescribed distance norm for opening new post offices in urban areas.

Basic infrastructure in Core Sector

†*585. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sectors considered to be backbone of our economy are lacking in basic infrastructure;

(b) whether it is also a fact that its main reason is the non-formulation of long-term policy with regard to construction of basic infrastructure;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the position of the country in comparison to China with regard to development of basic infrastructure of international standard in the above sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Various development initiatives have been launched and intensified to bridge critical gaps in infrastructure from time to time. Planned interventions have been carried out in various sectors like, highways, railways, roads, ports, airports, telecommunications etc. Focussed efforts are being made through :—

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- Bharat Nirman,
- National Urban Renewal Mission (NURM),
- National Rural Health Mission (NRHM),
- Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana (RSVY) and
- Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF).
- National Highway Development Programme (NHDP),
- Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP),
- Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP),
- Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY),

The Government has also set up a "Committee on Infrastructure" and another on "Rural Infrastructure" under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister to address all infrastructure related issues comprehensively.

(d) The required information is given in the Statement.

Statement

Composition of basic infrastructure in India and China

Item	China	India
1	2	3
Electric Power		
Consumption per capita kwh (2001)	893	365
Transmission and distribution losses (%) of output (2001)	7	27
Telephone mainlines^		
Per 1000 people (2002)	167	40
Revenue per line ($) (2002)	238	198
Cost of local call $ per 3 minutes (2002)	0.03	0.02
Mobile phones^		
Per 1000 people (2002)	161	12
Roads		
Total Road network km (1995-2001)*	1,698,012	3,319,644
Paved Roads (%) (1995-2001)*	91.0	45.7
Goods hauled million ton-km (1995-2001)*	633,040	958
Rail Lines		
Total km (1996-2001)*	58,656	62,759
Electric km (1996-2001)*	14,864	14,261
Traffic density traffic units per km (1996-2001)*	30,262	11,725

1	2	3
Employee productivity traffic units per employee (1996-2001)*	1,155	467
Ratio of passenger tariffs to freight tariffs (1996-2001)*	1.19	0.31
Ports		
Container traffic TEU thousands (2001)	55,717.5~	3243.0
Air		
Aircraft departures thousands (2002)	932	242
Passengers carried thousands (2002)	83,672	18,225
Air freight millions ton-km (2002)	5.014	550

^ Data from the *International telecommunications Union's (ITU) World Telecommunications Report, 2003.*

* Data are for the latest year available in the period shown.

~ Includes Hong Kong, China.

Source: World Development Indicators, 2004 World Bank.

Bonded labourers

*587. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that still a large number of people are engaged as bounded labourers in various sectors in the country;

(b) whether any data on bonded labourers is available with Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the number of bonded labourers saved by Government during the last three years; and

(e) the efforts taken by Government to abolish the bonded labour system?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) to (e) Bonded Labour System has been abolished by law throughout the country under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976. However, incidence of Bonded Labour is reported by the State Governments from time to time and efforts by the State Government concerned are made to release and rehabilitate them as soon as possible. As such, numbers of people engaged as bonded labour